

Marconi

COLOURS: SHIRT — SKY BLUE
SHORTS — SKY BLUE
SOCKS — SKY BLUE

1. A. MAHER
2. B. JONES
3. P. DEGNEY
4. J. RUSSELL
5. I. PRSKALO
7. G. BYRNE
8. R. VIERI
9. J. ROONEY (Capt.)
10. A. MARIANI
11. P. SHARNE
14. M. JANKOVICS
12. R. WILLIAMS
15. P. BROGAN
20. F. FABRIANESI

Fitzroy

COLOURS: SHIRT — GOLD
SHORTS — BLACK
SOCKS — GOLD

1. P. BLASBY
2. A. McMILLAN
3. B. PROVAN
4. J. O'REILLY
5. J. TANSEY
6. P. BANNON (Capt.)
7. K. TAYLOR
8. J. CAMPBELL
9. E. BOZIKAS
10. M. MICEVSKI
11. B. BULJEVIC
14. N. RACOVALIS
16. G. COLE
18. D. HAY
20. J. MARNER

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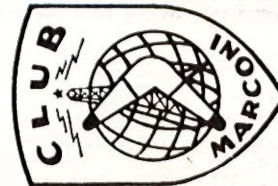


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TEAM PHOTO
SOUVENIR

Philips Soccer League



VOL. 1 — 30c

Marconi vs. Fitzroy United

SUNDAY, 12th MARCH, 1978 — MARCONI OVAL
KICK-OFF 3.00 P.M.

MY VIEW

by Rale Rasic.

The Philips Soccer League title will be harder to win this year than it was in the first year, 1977.

I expect more competitiveness due to the increased professional outlook of all teams.

Let's be honest. Last year was really a trial year for the PSL. There was a big gap between the best teams and the strugglers. We knew little or nothing about the strengths or weaknesses of the various teams.

All this has changed as we face up to the 1978 campaign.

Players who lack the class necessary for the PSL have been eliminated. Their places have been taken by better players as virtually every side in the competition has rebuilt.

The 14 PSL Clubs learned many things in 1977. Now we'll see how well those lessons have been taken to heart.

How about Marconi? I think I can promise our supporters a good season and also a different style of football. About three years ago, I realised we had too many static players in the side. It was obvious that we needed a higher standard of physical fitness if Marconi were to play the sort of stuff I wanted.

You just don't change the whole style of a team in one year. You cannot throw out your players until you have superior men to take their places. That's why it has taken three years to sort things out.

We kick off the new season with essentially a young team, composed mainly of local Australian boys. I feel that point must be stressed because, despite what some critics claim, Marconi are **not** among the big spenders of the Philips League.

The youngsters will have ample help from the experienced men in the squad: indeed the team is being built around outstanding players like Jimmy Rooney, Roberto Vieri, Ivo Prskalo and Allan Maher.

I am expecting big things from two newcomers, Vieri and Mark Jankovics. We know all about Vieri's capabilities following his "guest" appearances for Marconi last year. Jankovics was not really happy at St. George and he could be twice the player now he has settled in with his new team mates at Marconi.

We look to our fans to encourage the team. In return, I know I can promise our supporters that every Marconi player will be a true professional in his performance, behaviour and pride in his club.

That is all I can ask of the players. And I'm certain Marconi fans will not let the players down.

Give the team your maximum support. The response from the players will make it all worthwhile.

Marconi want the 1978 PSL Title. I repeat.....it'll be difficult. But I would not back any team to finish above us!



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A MESSAGE FROM THE MARCONI PRESIDENT

by Angelo Bagatella.

I believe Marconi are going to give the Philips Soccer League a big shake this year. You may accuse me of bias, but I have tremendous confidence in the present first grade side which has performed well in pre-season games.

It'll be a stronger Marconi team than we fielded a year ago, strong enough, I hope, to take out the championship.

I have a lot of respect for our coach, Rale Rasic, and also for the players under his charge.

Another item on the credit side of the ledger is the good spirit of fraternity between the licensed Club and the Soccer committee. We are a united Team in every way.

Club Marconi is pledged to give full support to its Soccer teams and this is typified in the erection of the new grand stand.

Last year, when we put up our temporary stand, I promised our Soccer followers that it would be replaced by a permanent structure. That promise has been honoured and I expect seating for some 2,000 spectators to be available for today's big match against Fitzroy United. Let's hope the Fitzroy game is a sizzler for our loyal fans.

I must also mention the new signings - Roberto Vieri and Mark Jankovics. These players have quickly settled in with their new team-mates. Vieri in particular is a better player than he was last year when he played at Marconi as a "guest." He will be a great favourite with the crowds.....as will young Jankovics.

....and a few words from the Chairman of the Soccer Committee.

by Tony Labbozzetta.

This year of 1978 could be a most significant one for Soccer in Australia. After so many years, this great game really must take off. It has played second fiddle to Rugby League and Australian Rules for too long.

I am optimistic. In the Philips League, all teams have strengthened their playing staffs. Off the field, too, it is encouraging to see efforts being made to encourage sponsors and provide better viewing facilities for spectators.

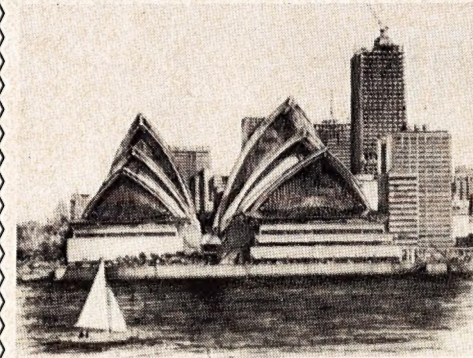
But the name of the game is....promotion. This is not a matter for any single club to think about. It concerns every Soccer club in the nation. We must all pull together. If we do, the code is bound to get better and better, year by year.

Marconi will have a busy program, in Soccer and socially.

The new stand represents a big step forward and, speaking for the Soccer committee, we should all thank the licensed club for having the courage to tackle such an undertaking.

I am mighty proud of our Marconi players who have responded so well to the coaching of Rale Rasic. Hopefully, they will bring as much success to Marconi as last year, in fact we are all hoping to go one stage better, finishing on top of the PSL instead of runners-up.

If Marconi are the 1978 Champions, justice will be done. I say that with tongue in cheek because, after all, where else should Marconi be other than at the top ?



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MEET THE PLAYERS — MARCONI

ALLAN MAHER — Goalkeeper. Australian-born, signed from Sutherland Shire, number one choice for Australia's national team. Tall and slim, answers to the nickname of "spider" for obvious reasons.

FABIO FABRIANESI — Goalkeeper. Signed from Wollongong City as understudy to Maher. Due to Maher's consistency, Fabrianesi has had few opportunities to show his skills in first grade.

BARRY JONES — Full-back. Australian-born, this 25 year old is now at his peak and looking forward to a big season. Marconi is the only senior club for which Barry has played. He has represented NSW Under 21's.

IVO PRSKALO — Defender. Following a distinguished career in Yugoslavian first division football, Prskalo added experience and stability to Marconi's defence when he joined the club. Rale Rasic consider Ivo one of his most important signings. At 30, Prskalo anticipates several more years in Soccer.

JOHN RUSSELL — Defender. Cost about \$4,500 when bought from Apia early last season. Australian-born, Russell has been on the fringe of the national team for several years.

PAUL DEGNEY — Defender. Yet another Australian-born youngster, the giant Degney is a speedy full-back, despite his size. He is a utility player, having played in all departments of the side. Toured New Caledonia with NSW Schoolboys Squad, and represented NSW Under 23's.

JIMMY ROONEY — Team Captain - Midfield. No need to introduce wee Jimmy really because he is one of Australia's best-known footballers. This energetic Scot played for Prague and Apia after starting his Australian career in Melbourne. An automatic choice for Australia in World Cup and international games. Voted "Player of the Year" by the Soccer writers of NSW and nationally.

GARY BYRNE — Midfield. Although most people believe Gary is Australian-born, he was, in fact, born in England. He arrived here as a boy and graduated to Marconi's first team via junior Soccer in the Southern Districts. Byrne has played several times for Australia and has many more honours coming to him in the future.

ROBERTO VIERI — Midfield. As an Italian, Roberto is a great favourite of the Marconi fans. He came to Australia in 1977 to play as a "guest" with Marconi. Vieri performed well enough to attract an offer to return on a more permanent basis. His Italian club was Bologna.

STEWART SELVAGE — Midfield. A bargain "buy" from Yugal three years ago when, at 20, he joined Marconi on a free transfer. Rale Rasic calls Selvage his "policeman" - meaning that he is a specialist at marking opposing stars out of a game. Selvage was born in Australia. Age. 23.

PETER SHARNE — Forward. This Australian-born speedster is one of the greatest strikers, potentially, in the country. At 21, he looks a certain future national team player and he has, already, turned out for Australia. Possibly the fastest forward in the Philips Soccer League - as opposing full-backs have discovered to their cost.

MARK JANKOVICS — Forward. Another local-born player, Jankovics cost \$7,000 when signed from St. George BSC during the summer close season. He could turn out to be the best buy of the year judging by his form in pre-season games. Jankovics has played for Australia and should earn more national honours in the future.

BERTIE MARIANI — Forward. With his former Marconi team-mate Rene Colusso, Mariani was fortunate enough to go to Brazil as a 16 year old, spending a couple of weeks training with some of the world's great stars in Rio. Last year, Mariani made the break through to first team football at Marconi and he looks like commanding a regular place in the front line in 1978. A slippery goal-snatcher of great promise.

RICHIE WILLIAMS — Forward. Australian-born, this 23 year old graduated to top Soccer through the Southern Districts juniors and NSW Combined High Schools. Although he has not claimed a permanent place in the first XI at Marconi, Richie could make a serious challenge this year. He will certainly keep Sharne, Jankovics and Mariani on their toes.

PETER BROGAN — Defender. Only 19, Peter Brogan is really an "unknown" in top Soccer but he has all the looks of a future star. Brogan is being groomed to take over from Ivo Prskalo in the centre of the defence. He has earned his place in the senior squad after playing particularly well in Marconi's minor grades.

MEET THE PLAYERS — FITZROY UNITED

PETER BLASBY — Goalkeeper. Albion Rovers, 1st Division Metropolitan League, Melbourne. Has been with the Club for two years and has won the Best Clubman Award. Was selected in the Victorian Squad.

NICK RACOVALIS — Left Full-back. Has come up through the Club's Juniors and has been playing in the First Team for eight years. Has been Captain of the Team for three Seasons, Vice-Captain for the 1977 Season.

JAMES O'REILLY — Midfield. Prahran Slavia. Joined Slavia in May 1976, and was immediately called in the Victoria Squad and has represented Victoria.

JAMES TANSEY — Full-back. Prahran Slavia. Represented Victoria on a number of occasions and is a member of the Australian National Team. Winner of the Rothmans Gold Medal Award in 1976. Voted Best Player for 1976 by the Press.

PATRICK BANNON — Midfield. Has represented Victoria on a number of occasions. Winner of Best and Fairest Rothmans Gold Medal 1974. Won Chrysler Motor Car as top Player during televised Games by GTV 9 in 1974.

GARY COLE — Inside Forward. Ringwood City Wilhemina. Represented Victoria on a number of occasions and a member of the Australian Under 23 National Team.

ANDREW BOZIKAS — Forward. Has won the Club's Best and Fairest Award and Most Improved Player Award.

BOBBY PROVAN — Centre Half. Clydebank (Scottish 1st Division). Joined the Club from Scotland in February 1977 and has shown great promise.

KENNY TAYLOR — Inside Forward. Windon Rovers, Scotland. Joined the Club in February, 1977. Has shown a lot of ability. Has played three years with Ipswich Reserves.

BRANKO BULJEVIC — Striker. Nobody is a greater admirer of this player than Rale Rasic. Buljevic was a star performer in Rasic's 1974 Australian World Cup squad. A most dangerous left-winger, Buljevic has been one of the most consistent players in the code for several years. Born in Yugoslavia but a naturalised Aussie.

MIKE MICEVSKI — Striker. Well known to Marconi fans, Micevski joined Marconi from Melbourne Hakoah three years ago. He didn't quite make it in Sydney Soccer and, last year, went to Europe where he has been playing in the West German second division. Now back in Australia, Micevski is tipped to have a very big year with his new club. Fitzroy United.

ARTHUR McMILLAN — Played for Hamilton Academics in Scotland. One of the best defenders in Victoria.

JIM CAMPBELL — Englishman from Bradford Town.

J. MARNER — Reserve Goalkeeper. New introduction to Fitzroy United.

D. HAY — New arrival from Clydebank, Scotland

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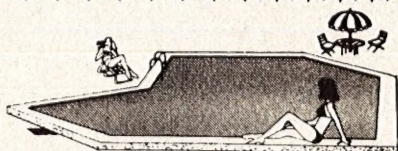


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NEWS FROM MARCONI

If you read somewhere that Les Hucker was retiring from Soccer, forget it. The big fellow is just recovering from a successful operation on his knee and we look forward to seeing him back in our colours as quickly as possible. The players are particularly anxious to get Les back on the field because, as the team joker, he has a great influence on everyone.

Nice gesture from the Marconi players to a former colleague. Before our Rosso Antico match against Eastern Suburbs Hakoah, the Marconi lads made a point of wishing Ernie Campbell a long and happy association with his new team, Hakoah.

Marconi are now negotiating for a tour of North America to be undertaken at the end of the year. It will be a costly business but the players are busily raising funds, working overtime at their jobs and so forth, to make sure cash doesn't present too big a problem.

Former Australian World Cup goalkeeper is a welcome addition to Marconi's coaching staff. Evidently a specialist goalie coach is valuable judging by the response to Jim's efforts. Already he has 14 goalkeepers working under his expert eye. By the way, as a free player, Jim Fraser will be able to play for Marconi if required this season.

Here's a new idea - chairs for ball boys at Marconi Oval. In the past, ball boys were sometimes criticised by spectators when they stood in front of them. Seated, they won't cause that problem. The boys will be dressed in new uniforms and will be specially selected for each game from the best junior players in the Club.

Work on the new grandstand at Marconi is going along well. It's all part of our plan to turn the ground into the finest Soccer venue in Australia. It is also good to see other PSL Clubs equally keen to play on top class grounds. For instance, St. George BSC have moved into their new playing headquarters at Barton Park and Canberra City and Newcastle KB United will also play their 1978 home games at magnificent grounds. With all this happening, it is clear that Soccer is making much progress in the Philips Soccer League.

Marconi kicked off the 1978 PSL Program with a magnificent result last Sunday.

The 3 - nil victory at Perry Park against Brisbane Lions was the sort of start every team dreams about.

Marconi's performance in anything but ideal conditions, bearing in mind - Queensland's March heat, was far to professional for the home side. Not that Brisbane Lions played badly. They will beat plenty of visiting teams at Perry Park.

Lions, however, had no answer to the Marconi Machine in which Peter Sharne and Roberto Vieri - the youngster and the experienced pro - shared top billing.

Sharne and Vieri inspired the rest of the Marconi players to produce a great team performance and a most heartening 3 - nil result.

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LADIES' SOCCER NEWS

Hi! Soccer fans. This is to introduce you to Marconi United and Marconi Jets, two ladies teams which we hope will entertain you through the soccer season. Some of our girls have had State and National experience. A large number of our girls belonged to a Sydney team which were undefeated champions for 10 years.

The ages of our girls range from 14 years to late 20's. We have three coaches looking after our two teams and a newly-elected executive committee, highly experienced in women's soccer.

Our girls, this year, intend to be involved with Marconi Social Club. In helping the Social Club we look forward to meeting officials, players and, of course, the supporters. We are looking forward to playing curtain-raisers at Marconi Oval, and hopefully will surprise the spectators with our high standard of soccer.

Marconi United and Marconi Jets have been invited to play exhibition matches in areas such as Canberra, Orange, and Albury in the near future.

The main aim of our players and officials is to promote women's soccer throughout the metropolitan area, and hopefully the State.

Many of our girls are interested in becoming coaches and referees which would be an added boost to women's soccer.

Looking forward to seeing you in the coming Soccer Season.

Yours in Soccer,
Sue Larsen, Publicity Officer of
Marconi Women's Soccer Club.

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